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### Moonsong

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for  
Helen Pridmore  
and  
Timaeus

# Moonsong

poems: Marjorie Saiser

## I The Moon Feels Smug

Randall Snyder  
(1998)

**Insouciant** ♩ = 56      *accel..... A Tempo*

1

Flute

Clarinet

Cello

Marimba *med hard mallets*

Soprano

Piano

*pp* *ff* *ppp* *mf* *f* *p* *ff* *f p* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp*

*dead stick*

The Moon

5

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*f p*

*f p* *f p* *f p* *f*

*mf* *>*

*f* *p* *f p* *f*

*pp* *f* *mf*

could be bored to death

*mf*

9

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*f p* *mf* *p* *f* *sub p* *f*

*pp* *f* *pp*

*mp* *pp*

*p*

she could be wait-ing

*p*

Faster  $\bullet = 76$

13

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*fp*

*f*

*p*

*f*

*ff* *sub p*

*ff*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

wait-ing

wait ing for a man to be done be-ing mad

Slower  $\bullet = 66$

17

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*f*

*fp*

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

*p*

*mp*

wait-ing for him to talk

Suddenly ♩ = 120

Fl. *f*

Cl. *f*

Vc. *f*

Mar. *f*

Sop. *p* *rit....* *f*

waiting for him to say  
what he has decided to do. She could be do-ing the dish-es the pies the

Pf. *p* *mf*

Slow ♩ = 56

Fl. *mf* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Mar. *p*

Sop. *ff*

mac - a - ro - ni cas - se - role from Nor - ma's re - ci - pe

Pf. *p*

27

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*pp* *mp* *p* *rit....*

*pp* *mf* *p*

*mp* *mf* *sub p* *f* *p*

She could be com po sing a Christ mas let-ter her hus-band's boss would like

27

A Tempo I ♩ = 56

30

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*p* *ff* *mf* *p* *f* *ff* *fp* *ppp*

*Pizz* *Arco* *f* *p*

*p* *f* *mf* *p*

*mp* *3*

Bet-ter to o - pen both hands this way as an

30

*mf* *p* *3*

Fl. *fp* *< mf* *p* *f*

Cl. *fp* *< mf* *f* *mf* *p* *f* *fp* *tr*

Vc. *< mf* *f* *Pizz* *Arco* *pp* *< mf* *gl*

Mar. *p*

Sop. *mf* *f* *sub p*  
 owl's wings o-pen in the night in the win-ter as the tal ons open and take the lead to catch and squeeze

Pf. *p* *mf* *f*

Fl. *p* *accel.....*

Cl. *pp* *f* *p* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *f* *Pizz*

Mar.

Sop. *ff* *mf* *p*  
 the quick gray mouse of luck.

Pf. *mf*

## A Tempo

[illegible]

## II *The Scholarly Moon*

**Pensive**  = 108

Vc. *pp* *mf* *sub p* *mp* *mf* *port*

Sop. *mp*

The Moon stays hard

Vc. *f* *p* *f p* *ppp* *accel.....*

Sop. *5* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

want-ing to suc-ceed In the day-time



*accel.*..... *A Tempo*

Vc. *fp* *mf* *fp* *fp*

Mar. *mf*

Sop. *fp* *f* *p* 3

when no one watch es she fades to a cir - rus white

Pf. 52 *f* *mp* 8<sup>vb</sup>

Vc. *fp* *ff* *mp* 3

Mar. *f* *fp*

Sop. *f* 3 3 *p*

turns her back pours o - ver maps and charts -

Pf. 56 *f* 5 (8<sup>vb</sup>)

Vc. *pp*

Mar. *pp*

Sop.

60

Pf.

Those nights when the sky is a black  
the stars dream of, she sits at the back of the house,

plot-ting e -

Vc. *p* *fp* *Pizz*

Sop. *clipse*

### III The Moon in Winter

#### Recitative

$\bullet = 52$

Fl. *pp* *fp* *mf* *p*

Sop.

She de cides for once to look up and sure e-nough

Fl.

Sop. *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

the stars as the dark comes on gra ze like sand-hills cat-tle

72

Fl. *p* *f* *mp* *ff* *sub p*

Sop.

6

3 3 3

Not bad this sol-i-tude

76

Fl. *fp* *fp* *fp* *f*

Sop.

6

this landscape of silence,  
A pretty good life, this hanging around.

78

Fl. *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

Sop.

3 3 3 3 3

A white curve lying a-cross her face the tail of the coy - o - te

82

Fl.

Sop.

she sett les in.

#### IV *The Moon Last Night*

88

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

fil - my shawl

Pf.

88



102

Fl. *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *>*

Cl. *f* *p* *f* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

Vc. *p* *<* *f* *p* *<* *fp* *<* *>*

Mar. *p* *<* *mf* *pp* *<* *mp*

Sop. *f* *mp* *<* *>*

you your boots' long steps to my bare feet on the

Pf. *mf* *p*

106

Fl. *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *<* *mf*

Cl. *p* *pp* *p* *#* *mf*

Vc. *p*

Mar. *pp* *p*

Sop. *>* *<* *>* *<* *>* *<* *>*

tiles to the yard so she made us step back so she would be un - crowd-ed by the

Pf. *p* *mf* *p*

110

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*p* *>* *<* *mf* *p* *mp*

3

black lines of the roof and the cu-po-la a white ball

113

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*rit.* *Tempo I* *p* *mf*

Pizz *f* Arco

*mf* *p*

be - tween black tres

116

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

to be held to be en-fold-ed arm of oak arm of ash

*mp* *p* *p* *ppp*

119

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*rit.*

*p* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p*



Reflective  = 108

# V Full Moon At Dusk

121

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.



124

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.



128

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*mp* *p*

*p* *mf* *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

When I walk up the hill a bent - neck streetlight

132

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

*mp*

*p*

strikes the moon

137 ♩ = 72

Fl. *mp* *f*

Cl. *mp* *f*

Vc.

Mar. *p* *f* *mf* *p*

Sop. *mf* *p*

The moon a puck

Pf. *p* *f* *8vb*

140

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *pp*

Vc. *mp* *pp*

Mar. *mf* *p* *mf*

Sop. *mf*

The moon a white pen-ny face of a gin-ger-bread

Pf.

144

Fl. *p* *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *pizz* *mf* *Arco* *p* *f* *pp*

Mar. *mf* *p* *f*

Sop. *p* 3  
man face of my grand - fa - ther

Pf. 144 *f*

148

Fl. *mp* *f* *p* *rit.* 3

Cl. *mp* *f* *p* *rit.* 3

Vc. *mp* *f* *p* *rit.* 3

Mar. *mp* *f* *p* *rit.* 3

Sop. *p* 3 *f* *p* *rit.* 3  
a great gull rest - ing

Pf. 148 *p* 3 *mf*

Slower Than Before ♩ = 100

151

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*p*

*f* *p*

*p*

*f* *p*

*p*

*pp*

*mf*

3

The lake

Slower ♩ = 92

155

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*f p*

a flat sky

the black geese

skate on

159

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*p*

*mf p*

*< mf*

the dark flock

dri (f)-ting

*mf*

*p*

163 Slower ♩ = 84

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

Pf.

*pp*

*< mf*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*mp p*

a sil-hou-ette

shakes out her

*mp*

167

Fl.

Cl.

Vc.

Mar.

Sop.

wings honks sett-les down her voice an oar push-ing off

Pf.

*p*

*pp*

The musical score for measures 167-170 is written for a chamber ensemble. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violoncello (Vc.), Maracas (Mar.), Soprano (Sop.), and Piano (Pf.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The Soprano part has the following lyrics: 'wings honks sett-les down her voice an oar push-ing off'. The Piano part has dynamics 'p' and 'pp'.